The Million Dollar Mystery

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

Illustrated from Scenes in the Photo Drama of the Same Name by the Thanhouser Film Company

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CHAPTER VI.

"Did you get the range?" asked the countess, when late that night Braine recounted his adventure.

Range!" he snarled. "My girl, haven't I just told you that I had to fight for my life? My boat was in flames. We had to swim for it till we were picked up by a Long island barge (ug. I don't know what became of the motorman. He must have hended straight for shore. And I'm glad he did. Otherwise he'd be howling for the price of another toat. Olga, for the first time I've had to let one of the boys have a look at | think." my face. Doesn't know the name: but one of these days he'll stumble across it, and the result will be blackmail, unless I push him off into the dark. It was accidental."

The countess leaned forward, her hands tightly clinched.

'But the box'" Braine made a gesture of despair. "Lee, are you using any drug these

"Don't make fun of me, Olga," impatiently. "Did you ever see me drink more than a pint of wine or smoke more than two cigars in an evening? Poor tools! What! let my brain go into the wastebasket for the sake of an hour or so of exhibitantion? No. and never will I! I'm keen about the gray matter I've got, and by the Lord Harry, I'm going to keep it. There's only one dope fiend in the Hundred. and he's one of the best decays we have; so we let him have his coke

and then Then what " "A burial at sea," he laughed. The laughter died swiftly as it came. Threw it into eight hundred feet of water, on a bar where the sands are always shifting. Ho'll never find it. even if he took the range. He could not have got a decent one. The sun was dropping and the shadows were long. He throw the chest into the water and then began pegging away at us, cool as you please, and fired

our tank " 'It looks to me as if he had wasted his time.

me and the gate-post. I've a sneaking twea that this man Jones, whom no body has given any particular attenpon is a door, clover man. He may have been honestly attempting to find a new hiding place: the advertisement in the newspaper may have drawn him. He may have thrown the box over in pure rage at seeing himself checkmated. Again, the whole thing may have been worked up for our benefit a blind. But if that's the case. Jones has us on the hip, for we can't tell. But we can do what in all probability he expects we'll cease to to watch him just as shrewdly as

Olga caucht his hand and drew him down beside her. "I wasn't going to bother you tonight, but it may mean something vital." "What?" alertly

For reply she mae and walked ever to the fight button. She pressed it and the apartment became dark.

"Come over to the window, quick!" She dragged him across the room. Over the way, the house with the marble frontage."

A man emerged, lit a cigarette, and walked leisurely down the street.

"No!" she cried, as Blaine turned to make for the door doubtless with the intention of finding out who this man was. "Every night after you leave be appears."

"Does he follow me?"

"No. And that's what bothered me at first. I believed he was watching some apartment above. But regularly when I turn out the lights he comes forth. So there's no doubt that he watches you enter and takes note of your departure." "But doesn't follow me. 'That's odd.

What the devil is his idea?" "I'd give a good deal to learn."

The shadow and the glowing cigarette disappeared around the corner, and the lights in the apartment were turned on again-

"He's gone. You really think he's watching me?"

"He is watching this apartment, I know that much."

And even at that moment the watcher was watching from his vantage behind the corner.

"Suspicious!" he murmured, tossing the eigarette into the gutter. They're watching me for a change. I'll drop out. I know what I know. It's a great world. It's fine to be alive and kicking on top of it." He went on without haste and took the subway train for

downtown "Is there any way I could get near him?" asked Braine.

"Tomorrow night you might leave by the janitor's entrance. I'll keep the lights on till you're outside Thes I'll turn them off and you can fellow and learn who he is."

"It's mighty important." "Don't scowl. At your age a wrinkle stepped forward. is apt to remain if you once get ti He laughed. "Wrinkles!" She could

exactivities for filter a "They are more important than you think. Every morning I rub out the

wrinkle I go to bed with." "I wish you could rub out the general stupidity which is wrinkling my schoolgirl days she had seen the fash-

me?

ways turning around" 'May I smoke"

"Thanks At least it proves you still have some consideration for me. You! would smoke whether it was agreeable or not. But I like the odor of a good cigar. And it always helps you to good Miss Florence." To her he gave, taugle going to end. He wished he

Brutne lit the cigar and began ble

mansion we know about?"

"And what shall we do there?" "Make the mansion an enchanted castle where sometimes people who enter can't get out. Do you think you could get her to go?"

"I can try." "Olga, I must have that girl; and I must have her soon. Sometimes I find myself mightily puzzled over the whole thing. If Hargreave is alive. why doesn't he turn up now that it's practically known that his daughter presides over his household? ! might | inderstand it if I didn't know that Hargreave to really afraid of nothing Where is the man with the five thousand, picked up at sea? What was the reason for Jones carrying that box whenever he really needs it. But this out in broad daylight? Who is the man Felton has seen my face. Some chap watching across the street? day he'll see it again, ask questions. Sametimes I believe in my soul-if I have one'-that Hargrenve is playing with us. playing. Well." flinging the half consumed cigar into the grate "the Binck Hundred always goes for ward, win or lose, and never forgets." "We are a fine pair." said the woman bitterly.

"We are exactly what fate intended us to be. They wrote you down in the book as a beautiful body with a have been perfect had it not been for crooked mind. They wrote me down the absence of Norton. Why hadn't tupily, and something like scuttling as the devil, ductied to roam earth's he been invited? His did not ask be- ensued. Later Norton heard the back top till I'm killed."

sconn el but it has this eaving at the engine raised his head, it was liberate her, grace, I enjoy being a accountrel Now | Norton, and Florence waved her hand | going up to the club There's vigorously nothing like a game of billiards of chose to smooth that wrinkle which "and your l'acle James was not invitseems to worry you."

was a mighty racket. Midnight at lines to find out where that coach was poured to be a real prison. ways means pandemonium in the going city room of a metropolitan daily. He set to work savagely, located messengers and printers with sticky the Bargreake home. He found Susa galleys in their hands; reporters were and hombarded her with questions and intermingling you could hear the of rain upon the roof. coareless clickety-click from the tele graph room.

The managing editor came out of the night city editor.

Editorial page gone down " Twenty intuites ago, said the night city editor.

Too late.

"Where's Jim Norton""

"At the chamber of commerce ban he was" thought Susan as she watched bomb into the enemy's camp." Nothing on the Hargreave stuff?"

"No. Guess I'd better put that in when Norton turned up at the old from here." the cubbyhole. He's dead." "No will found yet?"

"Not a piece as big as a postage like this?" the butler demanded:

"That will leave the girl in a tough | that's the reason place. No will, no birth certificate; and, worst of all, no photograph of the old man himself. I don't see why. But, hang it. I just had to come out impossine was out of the question. Jim sidestepped this affair. He the here." only man in town who knew anything about Hargreave."

"He hasn't given it up; but he wants to cover it on his own, turn the yarn or used to be my nurse, and if she is over when he's got it, no false alarms." "Ah! So that's the game?"

"Yes; and Jim is the sort every pa- or recognize me? per needs. When the time comes the he is now. Looks like an actor in the fourth act of a drama. Good-looking of the luncheon. chap, though."

Norton came in through the outer gates. He was in evening clothes, top in charge of the house; and when hat. A dead eigarette dangled be- her "haby" disclosed his identity she tween his lips.

"How much do you want?" asked the night city editor.

"Column and a half." "Off with your glad rage!" "Anything good?" asked the manag-

"The lid has been jammed on tight. No wine in any restaurant after one maybe she's in danger." o'clock. There'll be a roundup of ev-

ery gunman in town." "Good work! Go to it." R was one o'clock when Norton here in so long I've forgotten the run that a drama was being enacted right turned to his last sheet of copy and of it. I remember one room with under their very noses. The countess. started for home. Just outside the the secret panel and another with a while she acted superbly, tore her entrance to the building a man with a painting that turned. Have they handker hief into shreds. There was slouch hat drawn down over his eyes | changed them?"

"Mr. Norton !" "Yes." Norton stopped back sus- you."

The other chuckled, raised and lowered his hat ewiftly.

"Good Lord!" murmured the reporter Will you take a ride with me in a

taxt? "All the way to Syracuse, if you say Well, I'll be tinker d-d!"

"No names, please!" What took place is that taxicab was party. I want to reconnoiter." never generally known. But at ten o'clock the next morning Norton surprised the elevator boy by going out. job?" comically. Norton proceeded downtown to the national bank, where he deposited may be the time to laugh, and then it \$5,000 in bills of large denominations. may not." The teller had some difficulty in count-

of a coaching party. Often during her | in this?" bugie rising about the thunder of hoofs | house "Perhaps you've had too many sue and rattiling of wheels. Jones was not

"I. Miss Plorence?"

You will go with a hamper." "Ah, in my capacity as butler; very

no wigh of his secret satisfaction: ioned coaching party out to the old the horn. Florence's enjoyment would



Florence Was Chatting With the Count.

cause she did not care to disclose to of a chair strike the panel and some

"A coaching party," he murmured; ed! Oh, very well!" He laughed, and In the great newspaper office there suddenly grew serious. It would not

opy boys were rushing to and fro the trouble, righted it, and set off for

"So Jones went along" "In his capacity of butler only." Norton smiled Well, I'll take a his office and approached the desk of jount out there myself. You are sure airaid

of the location?" "Well, good by. I'll go as a waiter. wince they wouldn't invite me. I'm

I wanted a stick on that Pasama one of the best little walters you ever heard of, and all things come to him who waits." What a pleasant, affable young man

up the street. Jones was a good deal surprised

Chilton manor. "What made you come here dressed | 'I'm a suspicious duffer: maybe

"Do you know anything?" "Well, no: I can't say that I do.

"Maybe it's just as well you did," said Jones moodily. "I know this place. The housekeep-

to us. You don't think they'll question "Hardly. I'll put in a word for you.

And now I'll go and hunt up Meg." Sure enough, his old nurse was still all but fell upon his sech

"But what are you doing here, dressed up as a waiter."

invited, and the truth is I'm very desperately in love with the young three horses it was an effort not to lady in whose honor this ceaching by into a rage. But secretly she party is being given. And "Danger? What about""

me about the house. I've not been

fully, stowing away in his mind every detail. He might be worrying about goal nothing; but so many stronge things had happened that it was better to be

a banket of wine. "Here, Norton; take this to the much do you think I'd earn at this to take good care of myself."

house and can across Jones carrying

"Get along with you, Mr. Morton, It

'I'm going back into the house and ing them. They stuck together and re- bide behind a secret panel. I've got tained the sodden appearance of my revolver. You go to the stables money recently submerged in water. and take a try at my car; see if she works smoothly. We may have to do Florence was delighted at the idea tome blking. Where is the countesu

"Leave that to me, Mr. Norton," said brain. I've made three moves and ionable coaches go careening along the the butler with his grim smile. "He ing theme, "What Makes a Church falled in each. What's come over road, with the sharp clear note of the off, they are moving back toward the

So Norton carried the casket around ceases. The wheel of chance is at enthusiastic; neither was he a killipy, to the lawn, where it was taken from "But you are to go along, too," said bis hunds by the regular servant. He sighed as he saw Florence, laughing and chatting with a man who was a "The counters invited you especially, stranger and whom he heard adknew. And what a yarn he was going The hour arrived, and the gay party to write some day! It would be read customary pacing. At length he bowled away, They wound in and out like one of Gaboriau's tales. He of the streets toward the country to turned away to wander idly about the Suppose we have a real old-fash | the crack of the whip and the blare of grounds, when beyond a clump of cedars ite saw three or four men conversing slowly. He got as near as possible. for when three or four men put their heads together and whisper animatedly, it usually means a poker game or something worse. He caught a phrase or two as it came down the wind, and then he knew that the vague suspicion that had brought him out here had been set in motion by fate. He heard "Florence" and "the old drawing room," and that was enough,

He scurried about for Jones. It was pure luck that he had had old Meg show him through the house, otherwise he would have torgotten all about the secret panel in the wall and the painting Jones shrugged resignedly Were these men of the countesa' party? Norton couldn't say.

Norton made his hiding place in safety, and by and by he could hear the guests moving about in the room. Then all sounds reased for a while. A duor closed sharply

No: here you must stay, young indy, said a man's voice. What do you mean, sir "" dem. nded the beloved voice.

this room and that you will not be West Tiperes avecusmissed until it is too late." The sound of voices stopped ab

the countess her interest in the re. one sat heavily upon it. He waited "Why, yes. I'm not the kind of parter. They were nearing the limits verhaps five minutes, then he gently chap who dies in bed, surrounded by of the city, when the couch was funed slid back the panel. Florence sat the weeping members of the family, to take a sharp turn to avoid an auto- bound and gagged under his very eyes. It was their persons we dector, nurse, and priest I'm a mobile in trouble. The man pattering. It was but the work of a moment to "R is I, Jim. Iso not speak or make

> Greatly automished, Florence obeyed; and the panel slipped back into place. The room behind the secret panel had barred windows. To Florence it are Againere. All Praise in These Flore-How did you get here?" she asked the resonant. "From All Thy Plants.

> Something told me to follow you. And comething is always going to tell Processional. Figure the worst sight me to follow you Plorence

banging away at their typewriters which to Susan came with the rapidity as if one of those book berses had stepped out of a book, only book heroes always had tremendous fortunes and did not have to work for a living Oddly enough, she was not

Who was the men? he asked. The Count Norfeldt. Some one has imposed upon the counters."

Do you think so?" with a strange look in his eyes.

"What do you mean?" Nothing just now. The idea is to get out of here just as quickly as we can See this painting? He touched quet the major is going to throw a him jump into the car and go flying a spot in the wall and the painting alowly sweep our like a door "Comewe make our sompe to the side lawn

At the stable they were confronted with the knowledge that Norton's car was out of commission; Jones could do nothing with it. Then Norton suggested that he make a effort to comnumber the limousine of the count ess; but there were men about, so the

Horses" whispered Jones There are several saddle borses, already saddled. How about these people, the

OWNERS? Tib, they are beyond repreach. They still on the job she may be of service have doubtless been imposed upon But let us get abourd first. There will be time to talk later. I'll have to do some explaining, taking these nage off story to us up, if there is one. Here I'll say I sent for you, not knowing if like this. We won't have to ride out we had enough servants to take care in front where the picknickers are There's a lane back of the stable, and a slight detour brings us back into the

> The three mounted and clattered away. To Florence it had the air of a prank. She was beginning to have such confidence in these two inventive men that she felt as if she was never "It's a little secret, Meg. I wasn't going to be afraid any more.

When the Counters Olga saw the warned her people, who presently gave chase in the ilmousing, while she prattled and jested and laughed with strain on ligaments and tendons. "The Lord only knows. But show her company, who were quite unaware

painting that turned, fiave they changed them?"

"No: it is just the same here as it used to be. Come along and I'll ghow you."

"I handker hief into ahreds. There was something sinister in the way all indeed to women with timely hints may gestion and helps for ready reference. It is fittle hook are described. In a little hook are described to many reasons why ladded to women with timely hints may sent an all helps for ready reference. It is little hook are described. In a little hook are described.

Something sinister in the way all helps in the numy reasons why locked to women with timely hints may be taid of almost any drugglet, but if you fail to described. In a little hook are described.

Norton inspected the rooms care gradually decimated their numbers Houses, chapters ton. without getting anywhere toward the

Jones shouted that the limousine was tearing down the road. Someon the side of caution than on the thing must be done to stop it. He side of carelessness. He left the suggested that he drop behind, leave his horse, and take a chance at potting a tire from the shrubbery at the roadside.

Duet, 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee "Keep going. Don't step, Norton, "All right, m'lud. Say, Jones, how | till you are back in town. I'll manage Proxide. "Schergo" . . Lemaisre

(Continued Tomstrow Afternoon.)

The Churches.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lotheran. Corner Silver and Sixth. Edward Schneier, D. D., pastor Personigo, 198 South Spath. Phone 1691. Services at 11 m. m. and 7:39 p. m. with preaching of the Word Morn

sign for the evening service at 7.39, ing. The leading committee has the when the Endeavor meeting with he place well under way. At this hou combined with the presching service they intend to give the members th eith Martin Johnson in charge of opportunity to lond their support "The Christian and the their interest, their presence and

On Thesday evening at a schooldressed as count. Some friend of the mass meeting of all young people's Presching to Brother Pergassem countess, no doubt. Where was all this vocinties will be held in this church, upon the subject. David and that

> Our Blue training them on Wod- Acis, fearth chapter. neaday evening our Endeavorers will have a Hall subject. "The Christian and the Billwe'en second Priday major at Miss let," Louis 19:41-48. Einie Herger's home, wi. North Prayer meeting Wednesday even Fourth street All welcome. No ins at 1 45, lesson, Arts, 19th char-

Ten report. The Sunday achood is body with a rogram for Lather's lurthday, Sun- good way to said enthusiasm sho they November 3. In the evening spiritual spirit to such a meeting thegular session at 2.15 a.m., in for each one to fixing one." Burge of Superintendent F C Keef-

Immaculate Conception

Solidity none 7, percent maps; 50. Little miller to

Christian Science. Christian Scattist services are field the Women's care to botherm, at the ormer of Seventh street and their enge, synty flundic soormos at 34

Washrooksy evening servers are a The public is continue profiled to

trend Phone: perviron. Souther serviced at 9 to order a strending rooms in the N. T. Atmile took dry from 2 to h p. m.

st. John's Episcopal. Corner or Fourth period and West Story givenne. Bey, William E. Wat-"It means that no one will return to joen, it 4), rectory residence, then

Torontelly Sanday after Trinity Holy Embarin at 7 s in citizens crowd, I Ma to to. Marriage process: his will shirten the military, "the Poly-and sermion, the an assument, "Trans stand." HERTY OF PROSERVE

Director March and Service, 7 26. Almy and Purpose of Miles Moreover admit Just he has it obtained he mirrell

in Warfami --Renting Manage with all thy mucht." She pressed his hand. It was to her Charm Service II. W Papeer Mingelificat W. Horael II. Tother Hyun. hord, The children guille sand keep." Recessional to Je-

S. Sullivan

First Congregational. Corner of Coal absence and Broads eav. Archie Tournstort. Similary actions at 2:40 h. co. President articles at 11 a. m. and A. Smier, of the Anto-sulous longue, refrance real National Profit The offering of the morning to go by the End Cress. Fivening tmen by the paster subject. The

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· Bristian Endone or at 5:15 pt to

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Sunday school at 9 45 a, m., J. W.

To Y. P. C. metrological fit for p. 10.

or marketing that providing war lives.

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charch, sem arrive root Wednesday

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Consistin transport tol 6 20 p. m.

The regular Westmonths.

to be the flow for the Attwood

Horton superintendent.

secret of stewards.

Cor attendance is incresount.

nd in our new building are aspecial.

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lepted a call to the posterote of the interatent of the Sand a school flar church and will take charge on the 13 Ffana, president of the Epwerts longue. Mine Jennie Trort, nirectress that standay in November.

Central Avenue M. E. Church South. Panis accessing at 11 a. in and 7 20

Corner of Control averse and Arms D. to- with preaching in: the postor Dence. The south Efficie telephone, employed "Wat in the Earth," althog, from So. 18, open cock 1700, 2 Is Emission, chartman of unique, of the evening sermon, with outd of stewards. Hunday school of 9.45 a m. T M. Special more Maring.

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